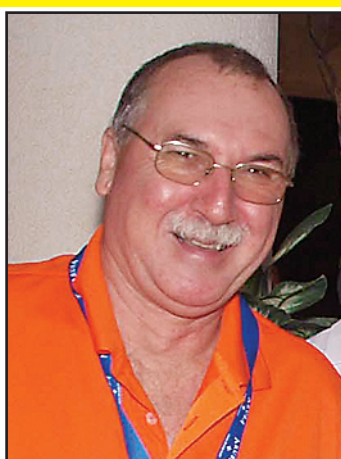


AHATA extremely concerned that raising the price of electricity and water for the tourism sector will make Aruba less competitive

ORANJESTAD – The President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, James Hepple, expressed considerable concern today that the proposed increase in the price of both electricity and water for hotels and businesses in the tourism sector as well as for other major heavy users of electricity such as supermarkets, will make Aruba that much less competitive in what is an extremely difficult marketing environment.

Hepple said that the Government is proposing that the current formula used by the hotels and businesses for purchasing electricity and water be changed to a new formula whereby those customers who use the most electricity and water will have to pay at a higher rate per unit and the increased income will be used to subsidize consumers, mostly domestic households, who use less.

The hotel sector paid in ex-



James Hepple

cess of 70 million AWG for electricity and 24 million AWG for water last year, Hepple said, an average combined cost of about US\$35 per occupied room. The price of electricity in Aruba increased by 9% earlier this year, and is up almost 30% since June 2009, he said. Since the financial crisis of late 2008/early 2009 which forced hotels to sharply reduce their room rates there

has been little recovery in room rates so the cost of electricity has grown, and continues to grow, much faster than the ability of the hotels to recover the increase in the price of utilities from their customers.

Any further increase in the price of utilities will have to be passed on to the customer, said Hepple, making it that much more difficult to compete against lower cost competitors such as Jamaica, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. And increasing the price to heavy users such as supermarkets and other local businesses can only result in these additional costs being passed on to local consumers thus increasing the risk of inflation.

AHATA is concerned that on one hand the Government is stressing the need for Aruba to be more competitive yet at the same time proposes to introduce a tariff structure which will do exactly the opposite.

DOW will go easy on illegal structures!



ORANJESTAD -- In a recent press conference, Minister of Public Works, Benny Sievinger indicated that everyone is expected to abide by the law with respect to building and the required permits. However, in recent months they have encountered numerous illegal construction projects being undertaken. According to Sievinger... "it is possible that those responsible are doing so out of ignorance to the law." Hence, it is important to make everyone aware of the law that states explicitly that for any and all types of construction a building permit must be obtained from DOW prior to proceeding.

Sievinger emphasized that DOW is authorized to take action for failure to comply with the building laws. However, DOW maintains some tolerance and flexibility particularly towards those who were innocent of the requirement for a building permit for building, for example, an additional bedroom. These persons will be given an opportunity to prepare and turn in the building drawings.

On the other hand, there are those who have built a

kiosk in their yard for the purpose of selling snacks, etc. DOW will deal with these on an individual basis and find ways to get that permit or take whatever steps so they could still keep their kiosk. Obviously, there may be cases where there is no viable solution and the construction will have to be demolished.

In this press conference the Minister also dealt with the budget of DOW. According to Sievinger, DOW's budget was increased because they opted to return street cleaners under the auspices of DOW. In the past these workers were under Serlimar, but it appears this situation was not being managed and controlled effectively, hence the reason for the decision to put them back under DOW.

DOW is the department that deals with the issuing of building permits. They process the requests for permits as quickly as possible in keeping with all building laws. There are many cases where there are long delays simply because all the documentation was not available at the time that the request for a permit was submitted.

"Aruba Ariba" unveiled

On Monday, July 11, the book 'Aruba Ariba' by Theo Knevel, was launched by Mrs Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, receiving the first copy on behalf of the island of Aruba; Ronella who wrote the preface to this debut book by the author, a native of Aruba's sister island of Bonaire.

'Aruba Ariba' has a contemporary look with many illustrative photographs. Each page features aerial portraits of the island accompanied by smaller detailed photographs with descriptions and interesting local anecdotes.

Theo explained his "main goal is to present Aruba as it is in everyday life, including the refineries and rum shops. I did not search for extremes, but focused on the beautiful nature and authenticity of Aruba. I



Ronella croes from ATA and Theo Knevel

have had the chance to visit Aruba frequently over the past 20 years, hence, as an experienced 'Aruba tourist' I believe I know all the places that give Aruba its unique character."

The author thanked the

partners who made the production of the book possible, including Mrs Lyanne Beaujon of Van Dorp & de Wit, distributors of the book.

Continued on page 8

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Murdoch summoned by British MPs over hacking



LONDON, England (AFP)-British lawmakers summoned Rupert Murdoch and his top executives for questioning in a dramatic new turn in the phone hacking row Tuesday, as police accused his newspapers of blocking their investi-

gations.

Former prime minister Gordon Brown also piled pressure on Murdoch's media empire, accusing it of hiring "criminals" to obtain his private documents and suggesting it used illegal methods to break the news of his son's illness.

The government meanwhile said it would back a parliamentary motion by the opposition Labour party today by calling on Murdoch to drop his controversial bid for control of satellite broadcaster BSkyB.

Brown's claims are the first

to explicitly drag other newspapers within News International, Murdoch's British newspaper operation, into the long-running scandal which killed off the News of the World tabloid at the weekend.

Murdoch flew to Britain on Sunday to take control of the crisis and lawmakers took advantage of his presence to call on him, his son, News Corp. executive James Murdoch, and Rebekah Brooks, News Int'l chief executive-editor to appear before them to face questions about hacking and allegations that Murdoch papers paid police for informa-

ETA 'ready to go further' after ceasefire

MADRID, Spain (AFP)-Armed Basque separatist group ETA said it was ready "to go further on the path undertaken" after calling a ceasefire in January, according to a statement released Tuesday.

ETA, classed as a terrorist group by the European Union, is blamed for 829 deaths during a four-decade campaign of shooting and bombing for an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southern France.

On January 10, ETA announced a permanent, verifiable ceasefire. But Spain's

government rejected the offer, demanding the group go further and disband entirely.

Only a few excerpts of the latest statement were released Tuesday by the two Basque newspapers, which promised to deliver a full text in their print editions today.

According to the portions released, ETA said its latest statement ratified its readiness to "go further on the path undertaken."

It called on all parties "to work in favour of a solution and to open between everyone spaces for dialogue and negotiation."

ETA welcomed May 22 regional and municipal elections in which a new pro-independence Basque coalition, Bildu, won a quarter of the vote after a lengthy court battle to prove it was not a mouthpiece for ETA.

Considered to be severely weakened by the arrests of a number of top leaders in recent years, ETA has not carried out an attack on Spanish soil since August 2009.

On July 7, armed police arrested a suspected Basque separatist in Britain in connection with an attempt to assassinate Spain's King Juan Carlos in Bilbao's Guggenheim museum in 1997.

That arrest came a day after ETA suspect Daniel Derguy was apprehended on terrorism charges in Cahors, southwest France.

US condemns Karzai brother's murder

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States condemned the murder of Afghan President Hamid Karzai's younger brother in "the strongest pos-



sible terms," the White House said Tuesday.

The younger Karzai was gunned down earlier Tuesday in his own home, and the Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the killing. A provincial police chief said he was shot dead by a long-serving senior bodyguard.

Ahmed Wali Karzai was the government's key power-broker in the south, and his murder deprives NATO of a vital if controversial ally.

He had been dogged by allegations of corruption and drugs links and was reported to have been on the CIA payroll.

Obama announced in June that 10,000 US troops would leave Afghanistan this year and all 33,000 forces sent as part of a surge ordered in late 2009 would be home by next summer.

Chavez: No succession plan needed despite cancer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday that despite his recent cancer diagnosis, he has no intention of putting a succession plan in place, as he repeated an earlier vow to make a complete recovery.

"The opposition and the leaders of the counter-revolution are walking around plotting, saying that Chavez is done, that he's dying, that it's time for him to hand over power, that it's for a transition even before (next year's) elections," the Venezuelan leader said.

But Chavez said such talk by his detractors of his impending demise is premature.

"With God's grace, and with the will of the people, we are going to overcome all of this," he said, vowing a full recovery from his illness.

Chavez first went to the emergency room on June 10, in the middle of an official visit to Cuba, for a pelvic abscess, when the tumor was discovered.

He then went under the knife a second time in Havana to have the growth removed, he said.

The leftist firebrand leader was slammed by critics for convalescing for weeks in Cuba without revealing his reason for not returning to Venezuela and not handing over day-to-day governance of the country over to his vice president.

Before his cancer diagnosis, Chavez already had announced plans to run for reelection in 2012, after a dozen years as Venezuela's president.

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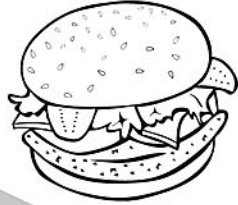
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Budget for Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) approved!



ORANJESTAD -- Last Monday during a public Parliamentary meeting called to discuss the TPEF budget for 2011-2012, Minister Oduber was present. The TPEF was created last year with a portion of the funds for this project coming from the private sector, some 4.7 million Aruban florins. This money is actually the 2% that the timeshare holders were not previously paying. During the recently held discussions and dialogue to privatize ATA, it was agreed that this money would be duly collected. The government also decreed that 3 million Aruban florins forthcoming from dividends of the Airport would be allocated to this fund.

TPEF has 4.7 million Florins earmarked for the improvement of the quality of the Aruba product, which will provide attention to various locations around the island

that have not received attention for many years, as for example Casibari, Ayo and our caves.

For the very first time the government presented a two-year island budget, to cover the years 2011 and 2012. Such a budget is constitutional in Aruba. According to Oduber, a two-year budget affords them the opportunity to begin planning the projects they would like to realize in 2012. However, this does not imply that the funds designated for 2012 can be utilized in 2011. Those funds can only be spent in the year for which they have been designated. Some members of the AVP party preferred to have the two budgets separated. They presented an amendment to have them separated, especially in view of the fact that the 2012 budget has not yet been approved by Parliament.

Minister Oduber accepted the amendment presented by the AVP delegation. This was approved by 13 votes in favor and 6 against. The law regarding the TPEF budget was approved by a 15 year vote and 4 neah votes. Parliament appeared pleased with the labors of Minister Oduber and for the positive effect that the TPEF fund has had in under a year of its founding.

Change in oil product prices

ORANJESTAD -- The official Department of Information -- BUVO - informs the general public that as of today, Wednesday, July 13, there will be changes in prices of various oil products.

Gasoline unleaded-premium: 235.0 cents per liter, which is a reduction of 10.0 cents

Diesel LS 206.78 cents per liter, which is an increase of 0.7 cents

Kerosine 204.1 cents per liter, which is a reduction of 2.0 cents

The Ministry of Economic, Social and Culture Affairs also announced the government has maintained the reduction of excise duty to absorb the increase of price of May 2007. The abovementioned prices include BBO taxes.



More than 50 road projects to be undertaken via the WIF and DOW!

ORANJESTAD -- Soon the government will have to make the Interim Road building Fund (WIF) a permanent fund. This is a fund that was created some 8 years ago specifically for the repair and construction of roads. This fund exists now for 8 years in a transitory phase.

The Minister presented an ample description of the projects currently under construction and of those projects to be undertaken via the WIF (interim road building fund) and the DOW budget for 2011. This entails more than 50 major road building projects.

The WIF budget creates the possibility to work on our public roads. The funds for the WIF are generated from our road taxes. It now depends on the department of finances and the government to determine what funds they



will get to work with. When these funds become formally structured they will have a fixed amount of funds that they could depend on. This however is for future planning. For this year 2011, they have received approval for 10 million Aruban florins. More than 24 roads received attention from the 2010 funds. These included roads in Oranjestad as well as several in San Nicolaas, to include Zeewijk, Pastoor Hendrikstraat and Palisiaweg, etc.

The funds that were approved last week would cover the work in the following areas and roads: Tarabana, Seroe Blanco, Rooi Manochi, Meiveld, Sabana Basora, Drachtstraat, the water drainage system in the Avenida Milio Croes, Engelandstraat, Safir Phase 2, Topas, Copal phase 1, Esmeralda Phase 1, Boegoeroei/Sabana Liber Phase 1 & 2, the water drainage system in Sabana Liber -- Betonweg, the flow of water in Kamay/Montserat, Seroe Pita phase 2, Bottom Hillweg and Zeewijk phase 2.

On the other hand DOW is utilizing their own budget to work on the recapping of a vast number of roads both in Oranjestad as well as in San Nicolaas. More than 26 roads in the San Nicolaas area will be nicely recapped.



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first Divas receive a free cocktail. Happy Hour is from 10 to 11 pm with Balashi, Balashi Chill and house wines at Happy Hour prices. And, off course all Divas drink are for FREE during this time.

Don't forget to be a real Diva because there is a price for the Best Dressed to Impress Diva! Music is by Aruba's no.1 DJ Diablo.

See you Divas every Wednesday night in Zissles!!! Zissles is situated in the Paseo Herencia Mall, second floor next to the cinema's.

For more information or reservation call 5863800 or go to their website www.zissles.com.

BBQ House beckons with great deals for satisfying meals



There is small strip mall located on De La Sallestraat in Oranjestad, which houses a spacious but cozy local spot that is garnering a reputation for great BBQ at great prices. Arubans adore their BBQ, especially ribs right off the fire, and BBQ House has them and other tasty choices with a diverse selection of side dishes.

While stopping by there, Eduardo, a regular who had walked in to purchase lunch for him and his son, advised us to try the steak platter, which he described as "really tender and tasty, I find the combo for only 12.50 Aruban florins (\$7.25) is enough for the two of us."- and his son is a teenager!

A Rib and Chicken Combo is only 18 Aruban florins, (\$10.25) and a Quarter Chicken is 8.95 (\$5.10.) These include garlic bread, a choice of two side dishes and a drink; a good deal all around. BBQ House offers classic regional side dishes such as fried plantain, as well as a selection of their house salads and fresh fries or fried or white rice.

Betty and the crew offer service with a smile and the



A selection of bargained priced combo platters

place does a brisk take out business, or you can choose to dine in their light, bright and clean surroundings. Aside from steak, chicken and ribs, BBQ House has many other favorite items on the menu, including a generous platter of chicken wings.

Nice ample portions and small prices will leave you well satisfied when you get your tab. Excellent for feeding a timeshare full of



hungry vacationers, call 588-5574 to pre-order. Combo special are available Monday through Friday only.

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Cas Animal Cont'd Don't throw away those old play huts!

Cas Animal Foundation is Aruba's single no-kill shelter, founded by Kiki Arndt, who began saving and rehabilitating abandoned and abused dogs and cats 14 years ago, when she first arrived on the island. THE MORNING NEWS supports Kiki in her

efforts to rescue them with our weekly articles, and this week sends out a plea on her behalf for unused playhouses about to be discarded.

Kiki has found these playhouses provide excellent refuge from the sun for the more than 80 dogs she now cares for in her home. "They absolutely adore curling up in them, and if anyone is planning on disposing of one, now that their children are grown, we would be happy to receive it as a donation," she reports.

When Kiki first came to live on the island, she found the owners of the house she rented had left behind two dogs who were

still guarding the house and awaiting their masters' return, despite starvation and deadly thirst. It was this demonstration of such disregard for the loyal devotion of their canine companions that prompted her to begin taking in abandoned animals; a calling that has taken over her life and to which she dedicates her days. The smallest donation assists in her efforts to help raise the funds she needs to build a proper animal shelter on land she has already been awarded by the government for this purpose. Donations can be made by calling her at: 565-2130 or 742-8732, where she can also be reached to report a stray or injured dog in need of care. She maintains an Animal Ambulance just for this purpose, often helping dog owners who cannot transport their pet to the vet's office.

Though most of her rescued animals remain in her care until passing on from old age, she encourages island visitors to adopt one of her

dogs or cats, and she has a number of adorable puppies; if not one of hers, then perhaps a loyal and loving cunucu dog they have befriended on the beach or streets. She will walk you through the simple process of transporting it back home. Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills, and donations can be made by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, as well as directly to the bank account of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. Pet supplies and



The dogs love to find shade and curl up in the playhouses

dog or cat food are also welcome.

Our continuing series and her progress can be followed on the Cas Animal Facebook page.

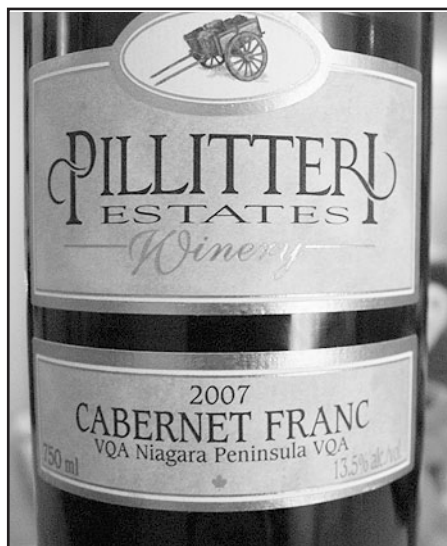
by Rosalie Klein



Cas Animal residents check out a donation of dog food

Sci-Tech

Smartphones help world's winemakers foil fraudsters



BORDEAUX (AFP) - For Charles Pillitteri, the fight against fraudsters began when he discovered fake bottles of his Canadian ice wine in Taiwan in 1998.

He tried everything to safeguard his product from counterfeiting, from 22-carat gold to invisible ink, only to realise that none would protect the consumer at point of purchase.

The proprietor of Pillitteri Estates Winery in Niagara-

on-the-Lake, in the Canadian province of Ontario, found his solution in a bottle-top silver bubble seal that is impossible to copy.

"It gives us authenticity, traceability, integrity and customer satisfaction," said Pillitteri as the recent Vinexpo wine industry fair in Bordeaux.

The seals -- developed by ProofTag, a French firm that specialises in brand security -- is among several technologies that vintners are embracing to foil fraudsters and reassure consumers that they are buying the real thing.

With ProofTag, a consumer armed with an iPhone, a downloaded software application and Internet access can authenticate a wine in seconds, even while standing at the wine-store shelves.

"It's easy. You take your iPhone, take a shot of the datamatrix code and it takes you to the website and it

shows you a picture of the bubble pattern for the bottle you are looking at," Pillitteri said.

"If you break the seal, all the bubbles are broken, the seal is gone and you can't copy it."

Android and BlackBerry versions of the app are due out by year's end.

Ice wine, a sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, is one of the most counterfeited wines in the world, particularly in Asia where it is a prestigious gift item.

ProofTag now sells bubble seals to winemakers in Canada, France, South America and the US state of California.

With Asian demand for Bordeaux wine growing, more and more of the region's estates are investing in bubble seals, Kaiser said, as well as other options that draw on smartphone technology.

E-Reader Growth Jumps Ahead of Costly Tablets

(AFP)- When Apple launched its iPad, many observers speculated that it was only a matter of time before e-readers, with their more limited functionality, would be replaced by the more versatile tablets. But a new study from the Pew Internet & American Life Project finds that e-reader ownership has recently been growing faster than tablets.

The study reports that the share of adults in the U.S. who own an e-reader doubled from six percent to 12 percent in the November 2010 to May 2011 time period. Pew began measuring e-reader use in April 2009, and this is the first time that ownership has reached double digits among American adults.

Tablets at Eight Percent

By contrast, only eight percent of U.S. adults reported in May that they owned a tablet such as the iPad, the Samsung Galaxy Tab, or the Motorola Xoom. Nearly the same percentage -- seven percent -- also reported owning a tablet in January, and the current level is only three points higher than last November. Before that, Pew said, tablet ownership had grown rapidly.

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Global warming: Cities, too, are carbon 'sinks'

BRITAIN (AFP) - Scientists on Tuesday offered a slender piece of good news about global warming, reporting that cities can be of surprising help in soaking up carbon dioxide (CO₂), the principal greenhouse gas.

Around four percent of the world's land surface is defined as urbanised, a figure expected to surge as the planet's human population rises from seven billion this year to as much as 9.5 billion by mid-century.

But unlike forests, urban areas are absent in most calculations of "sinks" where vegetation soaks up CO₂ naturally thanks to photosynthesis.

A new study, though, says the contribution can be significant.

British scientists carried out their survey on the central English city of Leicester, which has a population of around 300,000 living in an area of 73 square kilometres

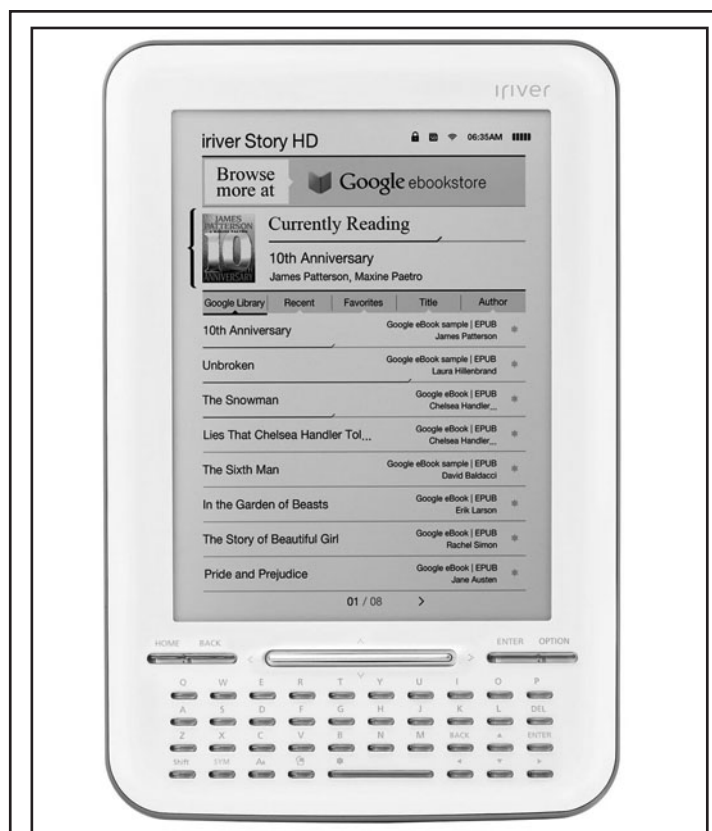
(28 square miles).

They measured the carbon-absorbing capacity of its parks, domestic gardens, abandoned industrial land, golf courses, school playing fields, road verges and river banks.

They found that 231,000 tonnes of carbon were locked up this way, 10 times more than expected. It is roughly equal to the average annual emissions of more than 150,000 saloon, also called sedan, cars.

"Our study illustrates this is not the case and that there is a substantial pool of carbon locked away in the vegetation within a city."

Urban "sinks" are not by themselves a solution to the billions of tonnes of carbon emitted globally but can help mitigate their impact, especially if gardeners grow trees, which absorb far more CO₂ than grass and shrubs, she said.



This handout image received on July 11, 2011 courtesy of Google shows the first electronic book reader designed to tap into Google's vast online library, which will debut in the United States on Sunday, July 17, 2011. A Story HD e-reader made by South Korea-based electronics firm iriver will be priced at USD 140 when it becomes available at US retail chain Target on July 17, according to Google Books product manager Pratip Banerji. "The Story HD is a new milestone for us, as iriver becomes the first manufacturer to launch an e-reader integrated with Google eBooks," Banerji said in a blog post. (AFP PHOTO)

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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

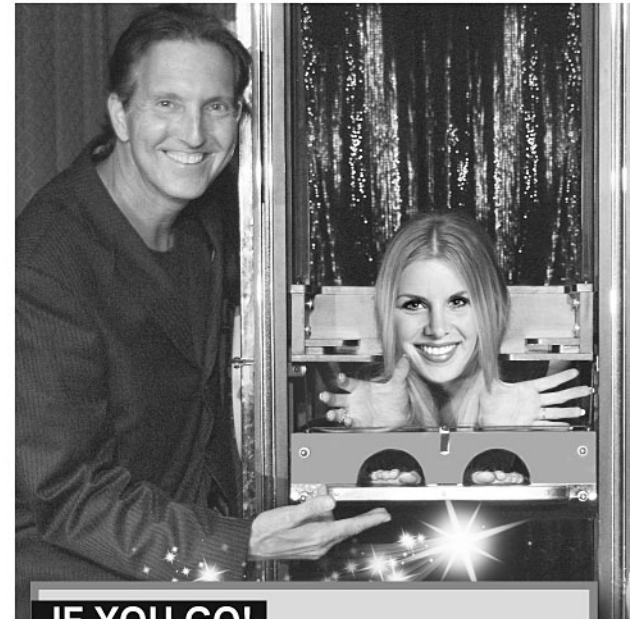
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-Leopold family, New York

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SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / **LOCALS:** Afl. 40

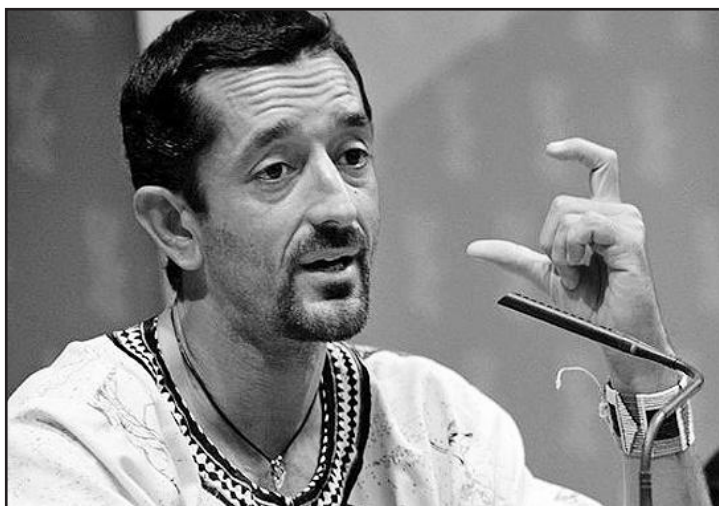
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Health & Living

Spanish surgeons perform first double leg transplant



Spanish surgeon Pedro Cavadas giving a press conference after the first ever transplant of a tongue and jaw in La Fe Hospital in Valencia 2009.

Spanish surgeons on Monday carried out the world's first-ever double leg transplant, authorities in the eastern city of Valencia said.

The operation lasted all night and was completed on Monday morning in the city's La Fe hospital, the regional health authority said in a statement.

"It is the first time in the

world that such a transplant has been carried out," it said.

It would not reveal the names of the donors or the patient for reasons of privacy.

But Spain's health ministry announced in November that it planned to carry out a double leg transplant on "a patient who had suffered a trauma above the knee on both legs

and for whom prostheses would be no use".

The doctor in charge of the operation, Pedro Cavadas, is known in Spain for having carried out several transplants.

In October 2008 he carried out the first double arm transplant undertaken in Spain and the second in the world, while in August 2009 he performed the first face transplant in Spain.



Australia launches alcohol health warnings



SYDNEY (AFP)—Australia's major alcohol brands on Tuesday launched voluntary health warnings on their labels targeting children, pregnant women and excessive boozing in a country famed for its binge-drinking culture.

DrinkWise, an industry body representing 80 percent of Australia's big alcohol names by volume, said new labels would be phased in on beer, wine and spirits carrying warnings on underage drinking and tipping during pregnancy.

"There will be no silver bullet, this won't change overnight. It might take 10 years, but our aim is to see a healthier drinking culture in Australia," said DrinkWise chair Trish Worth at the label

launch.

The new labels are not mandated by the government and are being seen as a pre-emptive strike in the wake of a government crackdown on tobacco.

Under the bold plan, which has drawn the ire of international tobacco giants, all cigarettes will have to be sold in plain, drab packets with graphic health warnings and no logos.

The new alcohol warnings, featuring slogans such as "kids and alcohol don't mix" and "it is safest not to drink while pregnant", will be accompanied by point-of-sale information about the health risks of drinking, Worth said.

Health experts from bodies including the Cancer Council and the Australian Medical Association said the campaign did not go far enough.

Others saw the move as a step in the right direction for Australia. Alcohol abuse is estimated to cost the economy as much as Aus\$36 (US\$38) billion every year -- more than smoking.

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Big summer smiles from winners of the annual Kibrahacha raffle



Kibrahacha Director Diana Uchtmann with winners, staff and volunteer

Centro Kibrahacha 60+ ended their calendar year of serving Aruba's retirees with a lively vacation farewell bash last week, during which they drew the tickets of their annual fundraising raffle, with fabulous prizes for 8 lucky winners.

Yesterday, Kibrahacha Director Diana Uchtmann was assisted by staff and volunteers in awarding the prizes to the fortunate recipients.

Kibrahacha client There-sita Froljik claimed the first

prize, 8 days vacation for 2 at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida; Second prize of a 7 day cruise for 2 on the Horizon was won by D. de Cuba and Solange Arends will enjoy the 3rd prize, 4 days vacation in Bonaire for 2. Aucij Sneek won an Acer laptop computer donated by Boolchand's, Benjamin Dania won a Panasonic digital camera donated by AMC/Unicon and the three final prizes of a weekend stay at Playa Linda Beach

Resort, Sunday Brunch for 2 at the Hyatt Regency Resort, and dinner for 2 at Promenade Restaurant were claimed by Ludurna Pena, Jose Gonzales and Timothy Kelly, respectively.

Centro Kibrahacha 60+ is primarily supported by the Rotary Club of Aruba, and various fundraising events they conduct throughout the year.

The center offer classes in handicrafts, Internet use, various sessions of physical fitness, such as Zumba and Tai Chi, and regular opportunities for social intercourse and cerebral stimulation for the elderly.

by Rosalie Klein

"Aruba Ariba" unveiled

Continued from page 1



Lynne Beaujon and Theo Knevel and Mike Eman.



Liliana Erasmus from fundacion papiamente and Theo Knevel

She expressed there is quite some demand for books such as 'Aruba Ariba' and Van Dorp & de Wit are delighted they can finally offer such a complete overview in their shops.

The book is for sale at a very affordable price through the financial assistance of a number of local partners loyal to the project. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the BUKI BUM project, from the 'Foundation Papiamente,' which is dedicated to promoting reading aloud to children. At the launching, the

foundation already received the first contribution to the BUKI BUM project.

Van Dorp & de Wit expressed the hope that many books will be sold so they can contribute much more to the BUKI BUM project. After the festive book presentation and reception, Theo Knevel signed quite a few books which were purchased on the first day. 'Aruba Ariba' is for sale at all Van Dorp & De Wit locations and at various kiosks and newsstands found in most of the island's resorts.

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US astronauts in last spacewalk of shuttle era

Two US astronauts stepped out on the last spacewalk of the shuttle era yesterday at the International Space Station, where Atlantis is docked on the final mission of the 30-year US program.

Americans Ron Garan and Mike Fossum floated out of the airlock at 9:22 am (1322 GMT) for the six and a half hour spacewalk, aimed at retrieving a failed ammonia pump from the orbiting lab and moving it to the shuttle's payload bay for return to Earth.

The duo, who were already aboard the ISS when Atlantis arrived on Sunday as part of the six-member international Expedition 28 crew,

also attached a Robotic Refueling Module experiment to the lab.

The joint US-Canadian project aims to test technologies for repairing and refueling satellites in space.

Atlantis's crew of four American astronauts helped support the spacewalk.

"We have come a long way since we first started doing spacewalks," said deputy shuttle program manager LeRoy Cain, reflecting on the 159 floating trips by astronauts and cosmonauts to build the ISS over the past decade.

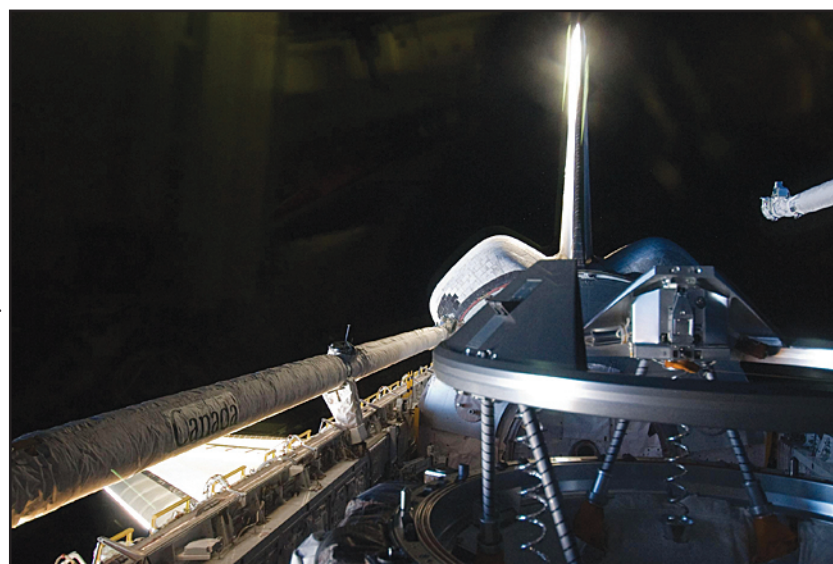
The last-ever spacewalk by astronauts from a US shuttle crew was completed on

May 27 during Endeavour's final visit to the orbiting outpost.

American astronauts Mike Fincke and Greg Chamitoff's seven and a half hour trip helped move the global space tally past 1,000 hours of spacewalking to construct, maintain and repair the ISS.

Yesterday's spacewalk marked the 160th at the orbiting research lab.

Fossum and Garan have already stepped out together on three spacewalks in June 2008 as part of



the STS-124 mission that delivered the Japanese Kibo lab to the ISS.

On Monday, NASA's damage assessment team concluded that the shuttle heat shield sustained no major harm during liftoff and would not need a more focused inspection, which Cain described as "really good news."

NASA also decided to extend Atlantis's mission by a day, so the astronauts will now spend 13 days on their final journey to space before the US shuttle program closes down forever.

The main objective of Atlantis's trip is to take advantage of the massive cargo space available one last time in order to restock the International Space Station with a year's worth of food and supplies.

With the shuttle gone,

only Russia's three-seat Soyuz capsules will be capable of carrying astronauts to the ISS at a cost of more than \$50 million per seat.

With the extra day in space, Atlantis is now scheduled to land back on Earth July 21 at 5:56 am (0956 GMT), mission control in Houston said.

NASA photo obtained yesterday shows Atlantis' payload bay, focusing on the docking mechanism, photographed by the STS-135 crew from inside the crew cabin.

The orbiter boom sensor system and a portion of the remote manipulator system's robot arm are visible in the frame, exposed during the third day in space for the astronauts. The photo was made shortly before the shuttle docked with the International Space Station.



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ACROSS

1. Mao ____-tung
4. Pinnacle
8. U.S. Pacific territory
12. Slippery fish
13. Brontë's "Jane ____"
14. That being the case (2 wds.)
15. Dangerous course (2 wds.)
18. Insomniac's hope
19. Funnyman Caesar
20. Supermodel

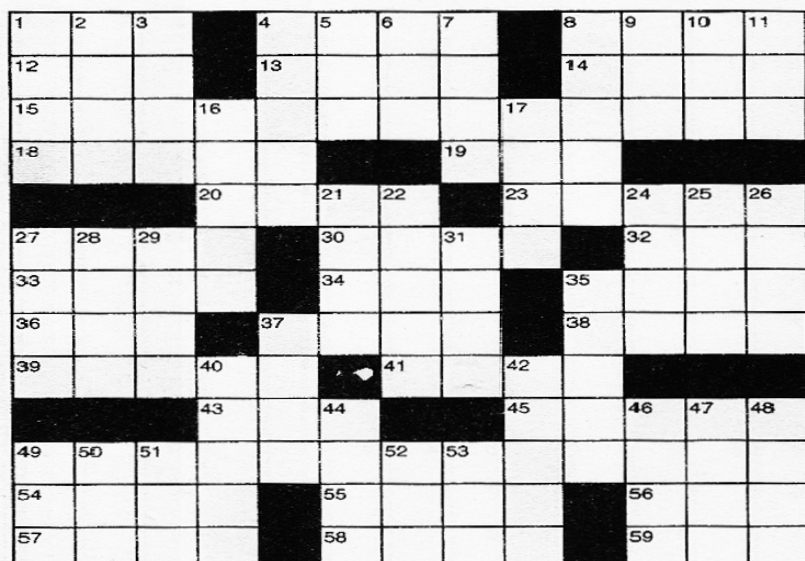
23. Quilt piece
27. "Take ____ Train" (2 wds.)
30. Some PCs
32. Actress Charlotte
33. Whine
34. Deg. from Wharton
35. Jazz jargon
36. That girl
37. Actor Ames
38. Page for viewpoints (hyph.)
39. Emcee Don
41. Numeral suffix
43. Go wrong
45. Ventures
49. Very pale (4 wds.)
54. Stem joint

55. London art gallery
56. "____ Lazy River" (2 wds.)
57. Tear's partner
58. Stunned
59. Explosive initials

DOWN

1. Dick Tracy's wife
2. Broker's advice
3. "Night" author Wiesel
4. Lively
5. Needle feature
6. Departure's opposite (abbr.)
7. They open doors

8. Comic Radner
9. Flying saucer (abbr.)
10. Nile snake
11. One Stooge
16. Blossom part
17. Drinks slowly
21. "The ____ of the Ancient Mariner"
22. Monastery head
24. Short journey
25. Neanderthal home
26. Obey
27. Sugar unit (abbr.)
28. Laugh sounds (2 wds.)
29. Washstand item
31. Horse's neck hair
35. Biblical prophet
37. Folk knowledge
40. Impede
42. Moved gradually
44. Pro ____
46. Disastrous defeat
47. Cable option
48. RBI, for one
49. ESE's opp.
50. Furrowing tool
51. Director Lupino
52. Log cutter
53. Gobbled up



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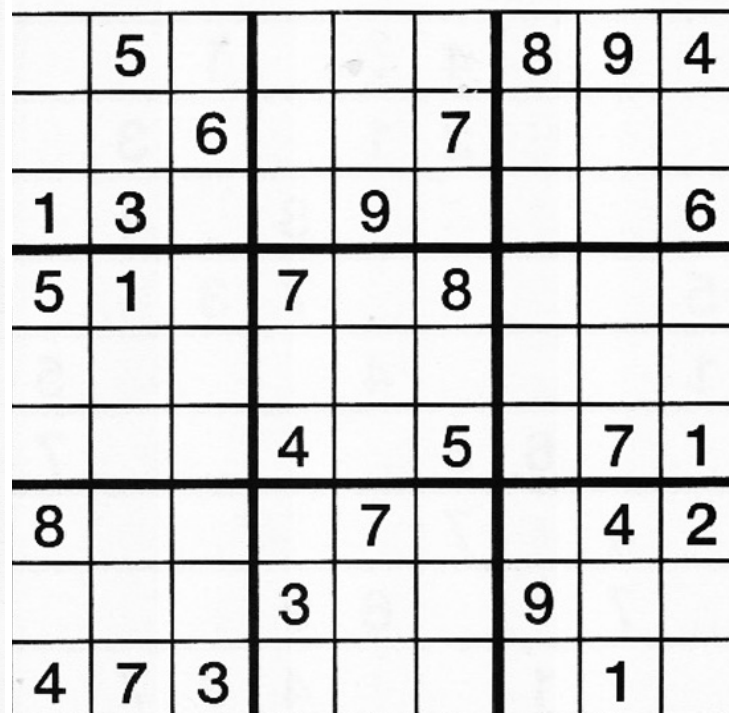
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SOLUTION

5	1	9	2	8	6	3	7	4
7	8	6	1	4	3	9	2	5
2	4	3	9	7	5	1	6	8
1	2	7	9	5	4	6	8	3
8	3	9	6	2	1	4	9	7
6	9	4	8	3	7	2	1	5
9	5	7	6	2	8	3	1	4
3	2	1	7	9	8	9	4	6
4	6	8	3	1	9	7	5	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Fed sets 5-year exit from US crisis support



WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The Federal Reserve has set a gradual exit from its crisis support of the US economy that could take up to five years, according to the minutes of its last policy meeting released Tuesday.

Policymakers agreed that the central bank, "when economic conditions warrant," would begin to raise ultra-low interest rates and then slowly sell off billions of dollars in Treasury securities, originally bought up to inject liquidity into the economy, "over a period of three to five years," the minutes said.

At the June 21-22 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, participants said the measured pace of asset sales was aimed at "minimizing the extent" to which the winding down "might affect the allocation of credit across sectors of the economy."

The FOMC emphasized that it would weigh the timing and pace of the exit against its mandate to promote full employment and keep prices stable.

But committee members expressed concerns about the impact on the economic outlook of debt problems in the United States and Europe.

With a Washington policy stalemate opening up the possibility of US debt default as early as August, participants emphasized "that even a short delay in the payment of principal or interest on the Treasury Department's debt obligations would likely cause severe market disruptions and could also have a lasting effect on US borrowing costs."

They also noted that Greece's fiscal difficulties and spreading concerns about other peripheral European countries "could cause significant financial strains in the United States."

At the June meeting, central bank policymakers discussed signs of a slowing US economic recovery, including a softening jobs market, stuttering industrial production, falling consumer spending and a depressed housing market.

Obama foe unveils last-ditch debt plan

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday unveiled a plan to avert an early August US debt default while sparing his party the political pain of a deal with the White House.

McConnell dubbed the complex blueprint a "last choice option" if budget talks with Obama collapse before forging an accord to raise the US debt ceiling, now set at \$14.29 trillion.

The lawmaker said he had grown "increasingly pessimistic" over the course of "seemingly endless" talks with the White House.

McConnell said his plan

called for Obama to request an increase in Washington's congressionally-set borrowing authority by \$2.5 trillion in three tranches.

The first would be a \$700 billion request in the coming weeks, then another \$900 billion in June 2012 -- when the president's reelection battle will be in full swing -- and another \$900 billion afterwards.

Each time, the Congress could reject the request in a "resolution of disapproval," but then Obama could then veto, the senator told reporters.

The presidential vetoes would require two-thirds of lawmakers to override them

and prevent approval of the debt ceiling increases, he explained.

Obama would be required to detail spending cuts to offset the new borrowing and would not be allowed to seek tax increases that the White House wants but Republicans fiercely oppose, said McConnell.

The net effect of the plan would be to give Republicans multiple opportunities to vote against any debt increase -- as demanded by core supporters in the "Tea Party" movement -- while preventing tax increases and leaving Democrats to shoulder all the political pain.

News Corp. to repurchase \$5 billion in stock

NEW YORK, (AFP) - Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., whose share price has fallen nearly 15 percent amid a spiraling telephone-hacking scandal in Britain, announced a \$5 billion stock repurchase plan on Tuesday.

News Corp. said its board of directors had approved a plan to increase the \$1.8 billion remaining in its current stock buyback program to \$5 billion. It said the purchases would begin after August 15.

News Corp. shares have lost 14.6 percent on Wall Street over the past week as the scandal that led to the closure of the News of the World tabloid shows no signs of abating and is threatening the company's multi-billion dollar bid to win full control over British satellite broadcaster BSkyB.

News Corp. shares were up 0.06 percent at \$15.49 in early afternoon trading on Wall Street.

Two pension funds and

New York-based Amalgamated Bank, which manages about \$12 billion for institutional investors, accused Murdoch of "a long history of abuses" in their lawsuit, filed in March.

Another lawsuit was originally filed to challenge News Corp.'s \$675-million acquisition of Shine, a television and film production company run by Rupert Murdoch's daughter Elisabeth.

Twelve million need food aid in Horn of Africa: FAO

ROME, (AFP) - Twelve million people are in need of food aid because of drought and conflict in the Horn of Africa region, a senior economist at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said Tuesday.

"There are nearly 12 million people who are now affected by the emergency,"

Shukri Ahmed told AFP at the organisation's Rome headquarters that those affected in parts of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda required "immediate food assistance", including fresh livestock.

The UN's World Food Programme last week said it believed 10 million were in need of food aid, an increase from

an earlier estimate of six million.

"Most of these people are pastoralists ... They depend on their livestock and they need immediate rehabilitation of their livestock," including access to water and prevention of animal disease, Ahmed said.

Ahmed said the long-running conflict in Somalia was "the centre of this problem." "To do any specific thing of course you need stability and a situation in which ... everyone can move around to help people," he said.

Ahmed however said the crisis was unlikely to escalate to the levels seen during the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s

because the international community was now more aware and had better early warning systems in place.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PJS	SOHO	SHUT
LOU	TRAP	NERD
UNIVERSE	ANNS	
SITIN	CAR	
NOUN	CLASH	
IFFY	NOSH	KIA
FILLED	THEBILL	
SSA	CORA	UNTO
OTTER	EMMY	
DUH	CELLO	
PONG	ONSCREEN	
ODIE	EURO	AGO
DEBS	STAY	FOR

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will even-

tually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities

standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip



Villa Catalina master bedroom

such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic

the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin



Grandma's stoba with classic rice/peas and homemade potato-beat salad

restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!



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Sydney adopts gay-proud Gaga



SYDNEY (AFP)-Colourful American pop star Lady Gaga has been declared an honorary citizen of Sydney for her "unwavering support" of gay rights as she delighted fans with surprise shows at two city nightspots.

The cryptic pop diva was given the honour during a low-key tour of Sydney, which will feature just one invite-only concert at the city's Town Hall for 1,000 people, as a token of gratitude for her gay rights work.

"Lady Gaga has been a powerful force for the gay and lesbian community in Sydney, and we have a rare honour for people whose achievements embrace the ideals and spirit of our city -- the title of 'Honorary citizen of Sydney'," said Lord Mayor Clover Moore on Tuesday. "I am extending that honour to Lady Gaga."

Moore said the award paid

tribute to the artist's use of her "star power to focus the world's attention on the prejudice still directed at gay men and women."

Despite being among the world's gay and lesbian capitals -- annually hosting the renowned Mardi Gras gay pride march -- Moore said Sydney's same-sex couples were still denied the right to marry under national law.

Born Stefani Germanotta, Lady Gaga used an interview on prime time television Monday night to call for Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to legalise same-sex marriage.

The prime minister was quick to pour cold water on Lady Gaga's calls.

"For me I think marriage and the Marriage Act has had a particular status in our society and it should keep that status," said Gillard.

Two held in Guatemala slaying of singer Cabral



BUENOS AIRES -People attend the funeral of singer-songwriter Facundo Cabral, shot dead on Saturday in Guatemala City, at the "ND Ateneo" theatre in Buenos Aires on July 12, 2011. Cabral, killed in an ambush in the Guatemalan capital over the weekend, became a star as part of the 1970s protest music movement, his music was largely about peace, love and everyday pleasures and pain. Meanwhile in Guatemala police arrested two suspects Tuesday in connection with the shooting of Facundo Cabral, the motive for the killing was not clear, but officials have hypothesized that gunmen could have mistaken Cabral for their real target, Nicaraguan businessman Henry Farina, who had hired him for the shows and who was driving the car at the time of the attack.

AFP PHOTO

Women's World Cup 2011 - June 26 - July 17



Sweden hope to make Japan dance to their tune

(AFP)--Sweden coach Thomas Dennerby is wary of opponents Japan ahead of today's semi-final, but is hoping his side can continue their trendy victory dance all the way to the women's World Cup final.

Sweden booked their place for the match in Frankfurt with a 3-1 win over Australia on Sunday and their trademark dance -- performed after most goals -- is rapidly becoming a feature of Germany 2011.

Japan made the last four by stunning defending champions and hosts Germany 1-0 in Wolfsburg on Saturday as a goal from substitute Karina Maruyama in extra time put her side in the semi-final.

Despite their nickname Nadeshiko -- a pink flower symbolising grace and beauty -- the Japanese are proving no pushovers at Germany 2011 and have already beaten Sweden this year with a 2-1 win at the Algarve Cup in March.

Dennerby says he is surprised his side will not be fac-



ing Germany, but says the Japanese deserve respect.

"Actually, I had counted on us playing Germany, but the Japanese are fast, technically savvy and we lost to them on the Algarve," said the 51-year-old.

Japan also held Sweden to a 1-1 draw in a pre-World Cup friendly on the eve of the tournament and their coach Norio Sasaki is expecting a tough match.

"We saw enough from the friendly against them to gain confidence and we have improved since then," he said.

"We have picked up some experience now by beating

Germany and against Sweden now, well, only the gods of football knows who will win."

Having beaten two-time champion the USA 2-1 in their final group game, Sweden are riding a wave of confidence and veteran midfielder Therese Sjogran is promising more goals having scored against Australia with a crisp strike.

"Germany were frustrated that they didn't score (against Japan). But things will go differently for us," said Sjogran confidently.

After collecting the player-of-the-match award for the last two games, Swedish striker Lotta Schelin says her team are now just taking each game as it comes.

Having won the women's Champions League with Olympique Lyon, the 27-year-old brought the team dance -- called Logobitombo -- from France and the Swedes have improvised it into their own goal celebrations.

Pressure off Venezuela, on Paraguay at Copa

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Few observers would have expected two of the top three finishers in South America's World Cup qualifiers to be struggling to reach the Copa America quarter-finals, still less stand in Venezuela's shadow.

Yet that is the situation facing both eight-times champions Brazil and Paraguay as both bid to land a place in the last eight while the Venezuelans can largely afford to relax ahead of their final group game.

Although now the baseball-loving nation will hope to go the whole hog and win the group they can afford to lose Wednesday's encounter in the northern Argentinian city of Salta and still sail on having drawn with the auriverde and beaten Ecuador.

Final group rivals Paraguay must, like Brazil, scrap to ensure further progress after two draws and the Paraguayans will not take the Venezuelans lightly after the Vinotinto's impressive

showing to date.

The Paraguayans did the double over Cesar Farias' men in World Cup qualifying on the way to coming third in the regional grouping to book a place for South Africa, where they pushed Spain hard before succumbing in the quarter-finals.

Venezuela, meanwhile, were happy with the high-point of a draw away to Brazil as the traditional continental whipping boys finished above Peru and Bolivia.

Indeed, two points more and they would have had the same points tally of Uruguay, who finally crept into a playoff with Costa Rica before going on to reach the semi-finals.

With the two best third-placed teams in the three-group Copa advancing to the quarters there is a chance that a draw might be enough for the Paraguayans.

But, just like Brazil against Ecuador, they cannot be sure that three points in total will suffice, hence the need to ratchet up their form.

"Now for the moment of truth," says Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino, who will be banned from the dugout after arguing with Colombian match official Wilmar Roldan during the Brazil match.



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India can win England cricket series: Harbhajan



(AFP) -- Key spinner Harbhajan Singh said Tuesday that a full-strength India had the resources to overcome tough conditions in England and clinch the upcoming four-Test series.

"From what I have read and heard, there will be lot of bounce and pace, and that we will get green wickets. We don't mind, as we know we are capable of winning on any surface," a confident Harbhajan told the Hindustan Times.

"We have a side to beat England in England or outside that country. We need to bowl the right length, whatever the wicket. I have to go out and make sure I bowl according to the plan and take as many wickets as possible."

India, forced to name a depleted squad due to injuries for the recent West Indies tour, where they still managed to win both the Test and one-day series, will have their big names back for the series starting at Lord's on July 21.

Batsmen Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir, pacemen Zaheer Khan and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, and all-rounder Yuvraj Singh all return after missing the Caribbean tour.

"They (England) are a good side and hopefully we will get the results we are looking for," said off-spinner Harbhajan, who bagged 11 wickets in three Tests in the West Indies.

"I am not one who sets targets and says 'I want to take the wicket of a particular batsman'. I am playing against England and I want to take as many wickets as possible. I keep things simple."

Harbhajan became the third Indian after leg-spinner Anil Kumble (619) and fast bowler Kapil Dev (434) to complete 400 Test wickets during the drawn third and final Test against the West Indies in Dominica on Sunday.

GROUP A	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
COLOMBIA	2	1	0	3	0	7
ARGENTINA	1	2	0	4	1	5
COSTA RICA	1	0	2	2	4	3
BOLIVIA	0	1	2	1	5	1

GROUP B	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
VENEZUELA	1	1	0	1	0	4
PARAGUAY	0	2	0	2	2	2
BRAZIL	0	2	0	2	2	2
ECUADOR	0	1	1	0	1	1

GROUP C	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
CHILE	1	1	0	3	2	4
PERU	1	1	0	2	1	4
URUGUAY	0	2	0	2	2	2
MEXICO	0	0	2	1	3	0

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France coach calls for giant-killing skills against USA

(AFP)--France coach Bruno Bini believes his side will have to call on all their giant-killing skills to get past the United States in the women's World Cup semi-finals here on Wednesday.

As two-time defending champions Germany and Brazil, the 2007 finalists, have already been eliminated the United States are the only remaining pre-tournament favourites in the running.

Despite struggling to reach Germany 2011 the Americans have never failed to qualify for the global tournament and were twice champions - winning the inaugural edition in 1991 and again in 1999.

As well as being ranked number one in the world by FIFA the United States are also the reigning and three-time Olympic champions.

France, by contrast, are a team on the rise after failing to get past the group stages in their only previous appearance on the world stage in 2003.

Comparing the two nations is impossible, Bini said.

"They are the number one nation in the FIFA rankings. They have 2.5 million club players. It's sure that it's easier to find 21 than when you have 55,000 club players to choose from," Bini.

"But you're not under-19 European champions, European quarter-finalists and

World Cup semi-finalists without being competent in some way."

Both sides have had very similar paths to the semi-finals, finishing second in their respective groups after losing one of their games.

France fell 4-2 to Germany in Group A, while the United States were shocked 2-0 to Sweden in Group C.

They are also both coming from bruising quarter-finals needing dramatic penalty shoot outs before advancing after a gruelling 120 minutes of play.

The United States got past Brazil 5-3 on penalties after the match ended 2-2 after extra-time on Sunday, a day after France achieved a 4-3 penalty win over England after their tie had ended 1-1.

The extra day could prove important, Bini believes.

Defender Laura Georges, one of the French team's contingent of ten players from Champions League winning side Lyon, believes France have a fighting chance in the most important game of their careers.

"They (the US) are solid, tactically very well organised and athletically very strong. We're going to really test ourselves on that level. They have a real athletics culture."

"But everything is to play for as it is in every match," said Georges.

USA coach Pia Sundhage believes that her side's strong

past record has proved an enormous help when they are in a tight corner.

"One of the advantages of the United States team is that we have been winning gold, silver and bronze medals since 1991," said the Swedish-born coach. "This is something when we're pushed into a corner we can look back at but be humble about as well."

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	55	35	.611	--
NY YANKEES	53	35	.602	1.0
TAMPA	49	41	.544	6.0
TORONTO	45	47	.489	11
BALTIMORE	36	52	.409	18

Central

DETROIT	49	43	.533	--
CLEVELAND	47	42	.528	0.5
CHICAGO	44	48	.478	5.0
MINNESOTA	41	48	.461	6.5
KANSAS	37	54	.407	11.5

West

TEXAS	51	41	.554	--
LA ANGELES	50	42	.543	1.0
SEATTLE	43	48	.473	7.5
OAKLAND	39	53	.424	12.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	57	34	.626	--
ATLANTA	54	38	.587	3.5
NY METS	46	43	.505	11.0
WASHINGTON	46	46	.500	11.5
FLORIDA	43	48	.473	14

Central

MILWAUKEE	49	43	.533	--
ST. LOUIS	49	43	.533	--
PITTSBURG	47	43	.522	1.0
CINCINNATI	45	47	.489	4.0
CHICAGO	37	55	.402	12.0
HOUSTON	30	62	.326	19.0

West

SAN FRANCISCO	52	40	.565	--
ARIZONA	49	43	.533	3.0
COLORADO	43	48	.473	8.5
LA DODGERS	41	51	.446	11.0
SAN DIEGO	40	52	.435	12.0

Yes, we Cano: Derby win is a family affair Yanks slugger sets final-round record with father throwing



By Ian Browne / MLB.com

PHOENIX -- This time, the State Farm Home Run Derby turned into a father-son bonding experience for the ages.

Robinson Cano, the Yankees' sweet-swinging second baseman, chose his father, Jose Cano -- a former Major League hurler -- to be his pitcher on Monday.

As if they were in the backyard, Jose Cano put them in his son's wheelhouse, and the gifted left-handed swinger delivered, ripping 12 homers in the finals en route to victory at Chase Field.

"I don't want to say that I won the trophy," Robinson Cano said afterward. "I want to say that my dad has won

the trophy."

In fitting fashion, the final round became a Red Sox-Yankees showdown, putting Cano against Boston first baseman Adrian Gonzalez.

Gonzalez put the pressure on, leading off the last round with 11 homers, which tied a Derby record for the finals.

But Cano had the last at-bat and got hot -- very hot -- hitting his walk-off derby blast with four outs remaining. The competition ended right there, as Cano was mobbed by his American League teammates. Included in Cano's grand finale was a 472-foot rocket that sat in the overhang in right-center.

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Argentina swamp Costa Rica in Copa America

ARGENTINA (AFP) -- A re-born Argentina swamped Costa Rica 3-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the Copa America in style courtesy of a brace from Sergio Aguero and another from Angel Di Maria.

Aguero, on from the start with Carlos Tevez benched in a revamped forward line, netted seconds from half-time after the hosts had dominated the opening stages.

With Lionel Messi magnificently pulling the strings just behind the main strikers, Atletico Madrid star Aguero made the points safe with a

second goal seven minutes after the restart to take his tally at the event to a tournament-high three.

Di Maria then finished off the outclassed Ticos with the third just after the hour mark as Argentina joined Group A winners Colombia, Chile, Peru and Venezuela in the quarters.

"This was a real tonic - just what we needed," said Aguero.

"We played very well and got the goals - but the main thing was we gelled as a team. Now we have to keep it up."

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Greipel outsprints Cav as Voeckler keeps yellow

CARMAUX (AFP) - German Andre Greipel finally put paid to years of playing second fiddle to Mark Cavendish when he beat the British sprinter to claim his maiden stage win on the Tour de France Tuesday.

Frenchman Thomas Voeckler, of Europcar, re-

tained the race leader's yellow jersey by 1min 49sec on Spaniard Luis Leon Sanchez as the peloton moved out the Massif Central on the 158km 10th stage between Aurillac and Carmaux.

It was one of the few remaining sprint finishes remaining, and Greipel took

full advantage of Cavendish losing his formidable sprint 'train' in the final kilometres.

"It's the moment I've been waiting for all year. I've worked really hard, and I want to say thanks to everyone who has supported me," said Greipel, who rides for Omega-Pharma.



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